

2006 VETERANS DAY MESSAGE TO SOLDIERS

On November 11th we honor the men and women who have worn America's most noble cloth—the uniform of the Armed Services. On this Veterans Day, we reflect on the sacrifices of Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, Airmen, and Coast Guardsmen who have answered the Nation's Call to Duty. We renew our "solemn pride in the heroism" of those who died in service to this great Nation and pledge to never forget the full measure of their sacrifice.

The history of the United States begins with the stories of American patriots who displayed the steadfast courage that defines our country. Today, the brave men and women of our Armed Forces continue that legacy as they set the standards for American ideals at home and around the world.

When he established Armistice Day in 1919, President Woodrow Wilson sought to commemorate the end of World War I and to mark a lasting peace. President Dwight D. Eisenhower and the 83rd United States Congress changed the name to Veterans Day in the aftermath of World War II, cementing the noble purpose of the day—to express gratitude to our servicemen and women.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, we salute our more than 25 million living veterans, and we remember the legacy of those men and women who died in defense of freedom. You have liberated continents, opposed tyranny, and given hope to millions. Your resolve remains the greatest testament to the power of liberty.

May each of you have a safe Veterans Day. May God bless the men and women in our Army. And may God continue to bless our great Nation.



Kenneth O. Preston
Sergeant Major of the Army



Peter J. Schoomaker
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff



Francis J. Harvey
Secretary of the Army